

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 139703  
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DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:TMCARNEY:JY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 139703

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPRES, PFOR, US VN

SUBJECT: US-VIETNAM RELATIONS PUBLIC STATEMENTS

FOLLOWING ARE EXERPTS ON VIETNAM FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S JUNE 11 ADDRESS AT OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE.

BEGIN TEXT:

THEN THERE ARE GOVERNMENTS WITH WHOM WE NEVER HAD NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, ALBANIA AND PRESENT-DAY CAMBODIA HAVE LARGELEY SEALED THEMSELVES OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD. COUNTRIES LIKE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, MONGOLIA, NORTH KOREA, AND VIETNAM ARE SPECIAL CASES.

FULLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, WE ARE BENT ON SHORTENING THE LIST. LET ME GIVE A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE KINDS OF STEPS BEING TAKEN, UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER'S LEADERSHIP, TO ESTABLISH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

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PAGE 02 STATE 139703

VIETNAM ILLUSTRATES BOTH THE DIFFICULTIES AND THE ADVANTAGES OF MOVING TOWARDS MORE OPEN COMMUNICATIONS WITH OTHERS. THE WAR IS A FRESH AND PAINFUL MEMORY. EARLY IN HIS ADMINISTRATION, PRESIDENT CARTER SENT A DISTINGUISHED COMMISSION, HEADED BY LEONARD WOODCOCK, TO HANOI TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN MISSING IN ACTION. WE OBTAINED INFORMATION ON OUR MIAS, AND CONTINUE TO DO SO.

MEANWHILE, WE TOLD THE VIETNAMESE THAT WE WILL NO LONGER OPPOSE THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS, AND I EXPECT VIETNAM TO ENTER THE UN EARLY THIS FALL. WE LIFTED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO VIETNAM. WE HAVE OFFERED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IMMEDIATELY AND THEN TO LIFT THE TRADE EMBARGO.

THE VIETNAMESE, FOR THEIR PART, STILL SEEK ECONOMIC AID, SOMETHING NOW FORBIDDEN UNDER OUR LAW.

WE HAVE MET WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TWICE IN PARIS AND WILL DO SO AGAIN. WE HAVE MOVED AS RAPIDLY AS WE COULD TO PUT THE TRAGEDIES OF THE PAST BEHIND US. VIETNAM, UNITED, IS A POWERFUL NATION OF OVER 40 MILLION PEOPLE, WHICH WE TRUST WILL LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH ITS NEIGHBORS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE WANT TO HAVE NORMAL AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS WITH THAT IMPORTANT NATION.

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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